

HOUSE BILL 2715

By Windle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 68, relative to emergency medical professionals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 140, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Board" means the Tennessee emergency medical services board;

(2) "Emergency medical professional" means any person in the employ of a unit of government who is a community paramedic or emergency medical services personnel; and

(3) "Unit of government" means any county, municipality, the state of Tennessee or any political subdivision or agency thereof, employing emergency medical professionals, all of whom must meet the minimum employment standards established by the board.

(b)

(1) Any unit of government with emergency medical professionals who successfully complete in each year an in-service training course, appropriate to the emergency medical professional's rank and responsibility and the size and location of the emergency medical professional's department, of at least forty (40) hours duration at a school certified or established by the board shall be entitled to receive a pay supplement of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) from the

board to be paid to the emergency medical professional in addition to the emergency medical professional's regular salary.

(2) Any emergency medical professional shall be eligible for such educational incentive upon satisfactory completion, as determined by the board, of forty (40) hours of such training in each year.

(c) Funds made available under this part to units of government shall be received and expended as follows:

(1) Funds shall be used only as a cash salary bonus supplement to emergency medical professionals;

(2) Each emergency medical professional shall be entitled to receive the educational incentive that such emergency medical professional's qualifications brought to such unit;

(3) Funds provided shall not be used to supplant existing salaries or as substitutes for normal salary increases periodically due to emergency medical professionals; and

(4) In accordance with rules and regulations of the board.

(d) All units of government are hereby expressly prohibited from discriminating against any emergency medical professional by interfering with or denying any emergency medical professional the opportunity to participate in any training or educational program established by such unit of government for the purpose of compliance with this part.

(e) The board may establish minimum employment and training standards for emergency medical professionals who are to be eligible for educational incentives.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.